



Seeking to
make disciples
of Jesus
Christ for the
transformation
of the world

through actively reflecting
the love of Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Service

State Roads 14 & 5

Worship Service
9:00 am

Sunday School
10:15 am
Features children's
programming, youth and
adult small groups.

CONTACT

South Whitley
United Methodist Church
6685 W SR 14
South Whitley, IN 46787

260.723.5107
260.723.6418 fax

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Childcare & Preschool Needs

260.723.5105
Jodi Sims, Childcare
Director
Traci Kreider, Preschool
Director

**Newsletter
Announcements**
swumc@embarqmail.com

the Messenger

southwhitleyumc.com



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of my many favorite praise hymns was written in 1990 by Don Moen. This song has given me strength on more than one occasion when life has taken a cruel turn. I have also sung these words at the end of what was an uphill battle and, by the grace of God, came out victorious. As I was preparing to write this monthly newsletter article I was reflecting on the events of the past 12 months here at South Whitley UMC. At times we seemed to be on a pretty slippery slope and weren't sure which direction things were going.

The year 2017 ended up being a great year of growth, perhaps not physical growth, but very definitely spiritual as we grew in our faith and trusted in the grace of God to get us through the valley. God had his hand upon us and was with us all the way and by God's grace we came through!

As I was reflecting on what to write the words of this praise hymn came back to mind. No matter how deep the valley or how thick the wilderness may appear to be, God is there for us and will make a way back into His arms of mercy and grace. Our job is and was to remain faithful.

I share these words with you:

"God will make a way where there seems to be no way.

He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me.

He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side.

With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way.

"Oh, God will make a way where there seems to be no way

He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me.

He will be my guide, Hold me closely to His side.

With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way.

"By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me and rivers in the desert will I see.

Heaven and Earth will fade, but His Word will still remain and He will do something new to-day."

REPEAT

"Oh, God will make a way where there seems to be no way.

He works in ways we cannot see. He will make a way for me.

He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side.

With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way.

With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way."

Songwriters: Don Moen

The new year will come with challenges of its own and, as in the past, God will make a way even in those times when the seems to be no way. My prayer in the coming months is we will all remain faithful as we move forward in obedience and service.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Pastor Keith

Pancake Breakfast

Everyone like pancakes right? Well..... You're in luck! The youth are wanting to renovate the youth room and will be having fundraisers throughout the year to help make that happen. On **Sunday, Feb 18th**, we'll be hosting an all you can eat pancake breakfast right after the church service. We will be having an extended fellowship hour that morning. So, Sunday school will start a little later to give you time to fill your bellies. Free will donation will be offered. Come hungry!

Something Exciting Is Going To Happen!

On April 23rd, 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church from all around the world joined together and formed the United Methodist Church. These two congregations from South Whitley began worshipping in the larger church building located at 401 South Main Street as they awaited completion of the new building at the current location.

Seven months and one day later, on November 24th, the members of the newly formed United Methodist Church walked across the bridge from the old church location on South Main Street to our new building at our present location.

Many of those who made the 1st journey, or their families, are still active in their attendance and support of South Whitley UMC. Later this year we will be celebration our 50th year in our present church home. It will be a great day!

Thank you

South Whitley UMC, Thank you so much for helping me meet my goal of filling a 55 gal barrel drum of pop tabs. We had 112 pounds, which equaled out to \$57 to give to the Ronald McDonald house in Fort Wayne. I would love to see us get 113 pounds this year! Kayla Leininger has a box their (Church Lobby) for pop tabs. Thank you again. Melissa Moore (Saint Mathews Unitec Methodist Church

New Pastor Update

The Staff Parish Relations Ministry Team is pleased to announce that they did not have to look far to find the perfect candidate to fill our pastoral opening. Interim Pastor Keith Schreffler expressed his desire to remain at the South Whitley United Methodist Church through June 2019. On Thursday, January 18th, District Superintendent, Dave Neckers, reported that the Bishop and the Cabinet had approved the appointment.

In a recent committee meeting, the SPRC had identified specific skills and gifts the new pastor would need to possess in order to have successful ministry at the SWUMC. Pastor Keith, supported by his wonderful wife, Kay, could not have fit the bill any better! Pastor Keith has a strong spiritual core with a practical approach to ministry. All of the members of SPRC wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support Pastor Keith in continuing his ministry at the SWUMC. What a wonderful way to start the New Year!

Jr./Sr. High Camp by Tony Klepinger

Well, it's the first of the year and time once again to talk camp. Before you know it, the temps will be warm and that week that all our students look forward to will be upon us.

Jr. High Camp Adventure, campers can pick the week that works the best for their summer schedule.

For Sr. High camp, we have reserved a cabin for the week of July 1-6. The cost will be \$185 per student. We do have limited spots so make sure to get your money into the church to reserve your spot. Checks can be made payable to South Whitley UMC (marked Sr High Camp in the memo). As always, I encourage students to invite friends. This is a great opportunity to get students introduce to our group, as well as, possibly changing their entire life...deep I know. Scholarships are available for those who need it. Don't miss out on the best time of the summer!

Our Gifts, Our Presence (to date thru December 2017)

To date thru Dec	Actual	Budgeted
Regular offering	\$247,444	\$265,000
Debt retirement	\$27,285	\$21,000
Other receipts	\$7,480	\$1,320
Giving Total	\$282,209	\$287,320

Giving was under budget by \$5,111

To date thru Dec	Actual	Budgeted
Expenses	\$266,461	\$289,316

Expenses were under budget by \$22,855

Overall Giving was higher than Expenses for a excess of \$15,748

Attendance	Worship	Sunday Schl
Dec. 3	106	43
Dec. 10	112	46
Dec. 17	138	40
Dec. 24	154	No SS
Dec. 31	104	No SS
YTD Avg	135	44

Night of Praise, Worship & Fellowship

Everyone is invited for a Praise and Worship Night on Friday, March 16th sponsored by the youth. The evening will consist of dinner, praise, worship, and a guest speaker, Avery Robinson (who is a graduate of Whitko). The evening will start at 6:30pm for dinner. Be sure to mark your calendar and invite a friend, for it is sure to be an awesome night of the praise, worship and fellowship.

Our Celebrations



Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Kate Burch | 17 - Rozlyn Bishop |
| 2 - Patty Good | Diane Idle |
| Kylie Hathaway | 18 - Cory Sickafoose |
| Tanner Nicodemus | 20 - Tyler Hathaway |
| Ted Nixon | Cindy Stahlman |
| 4 - Lilee Staley | 22 - Tisha Hardesty |
| 6 - John Rudd | 23 - Barbara Sickafoose |
| 9 - Ruth Smith | 25 - Dan Beiswanger |
| Branch Wilkinson | Jan Kauffman |
| 12 - Jana Shellman | 26 - Tom Till |
| 13 - Colleen French | 27 - Buck VanPatten |
| 14 - Susan Butcher | 28 - Andrea Snavelly |
| 15 - Laura Lime | 29 - Colleen Britten |
| 16 - Johannes Bingham | Anne Hill |

Anniversary

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14 - Carl & Rachel Abbott | 16 - Gene & Dutie Brownig |
| Jeff & Cheri Bryan | 26 - Bob & Mary Wendel |
| Mike & Earlyne Kline | |

Our Prayers



Military Personnel

- Benjamin Bryan**
- Cole Findley**
- Mike Pearce**
- Justin Roman**

Temporary Address

Vibra Hospital Fort Wayn
Joan Eberhart—Room 515
 2200 Randallia Drive
 Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

Peabody Retirement

Margaret Graham
 400 West Seventh Street
 North Manchester, Indiana 46962

Sycamore Keepsakes Village

Ilah Rondot
 611 W County Line Road S
 Fort Wayne IN 46814

Darlene Welty

Send things to Darlene in care of...
 Justin Welty
 46 Woodacre Drive
 Carmel, IN 46032

Job Opening

Currently, Sonshine Child Care Ministry has a part-time position available. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Childcare Director, Jodi Sims, at 260-723-5105. What a blessing it is to be able to share the love of Jesus with these precious little people and their parents and to further the ministry of the church. Which is seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world while actively reflecting the Love Of Christ!

Church Sign

As you may have noticed...the new Church sign has been installed. The purpose of the sign is to communicate SWUMC related information to the community of South Whitley and the surrounding area. A Sign Message Application has been developed to aide in the process of getting information added to the sign. The application form can be picked up from the Church office. Requests should not be submitted less than 3 weeks prior to the event. Events to be considered must be for the betterment of the community and pertain to SWUMC and the residents of South Whitley. No personal messages or events will be considered at this time.

Mark Your Calendars

- February 1** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- February 2-3** - Fusion Retreat (leave church at 4:30pm)
- February 6** - Finance Ministry Team Meeting (6:30pm)
- February 7** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
- Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- Pound Rockout Fitness Class (7:00pm)
- February 8** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- February 11** - Trustees Ministry Team Meeting (10:15am)
- Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- February 14** - Ash Wednesday Service (6:30pm)
- Praise Team Practice (7:30pm)
- Pound Rockout Fitness Class (7:00pm)
- February 15** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- February 16** - Social Hall Reserved (5:00-11:00pm)
- February 18** - Fusion Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser (9:15am)
- (followed by a delayed start Sunday School hour)
- February 21** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
- Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- Pound Rockout Fitness Class (7:00pm)
- February 22** - Executive Leadership Team Mtg (6:30pm)
- Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- February 25** - Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- February 28** - Blood Drive (12:30-6:30pm)
- Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
- Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)

